ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

FORTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

—OF THE—

CENTRAL

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

—HELD WITH—

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, ELMORE COUNTY, ALA.

SEPT. 30TH, OCT. 1ST AND 2D, 1885.

OFFICERS:

L. H. HASTIE.....MODERATOR,.....Marble-Valley, Ala
D. S. MARTIN ....CLERK,.....Equality, Ala
T. J. PENINGTON.....TREASURER,.....Rockford, Ala

The next Session of the Central Association, will be held with Way-side Church, in Coosa county, Ala., 17 miles north-west of Wetumpka, to commence on Wednesday, before the 1st, Sabbath in October, 1886.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT,
1885.

RULES OF ORDER.

1. Hear Letters from the Churches.
2. Call for petitions from Churches desiring membership.
3. Elect Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
4. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
5. Appoint Committees to report during session, viz:
   - On religious exercises.
   - On finance and auditing.
   - On documents and requests.
   - On nominations.
   - On correspondence.
6. Call for correspondence.
7. Have Rules of Decorum read.
8. Call roll and erase absentees.
9. Hear Treasurer's report and refer.
10. Return correspondence.
11. Hear miscellaneous business.
12. Hear reports from committees.
13. Give instructions about appropriations.
14. Make arrangements for printing Minutes.
15. Hear circular letters.
16. Correct Minutes and adjourn.

NAMES AND POST-OFFICES OF MINISTERS.

ORDAINED.

J. H. Colley	Equality, Ala.	O. C. Swindall	Good Hope, Ala.
L. H. Hastie	Marble Valley, "	J. M. Johnson	" " "
D. S. Martin	Equality, "	G. M. Lowry	Stewartville, "
T A. Kelley	Rockford, "	W. T. Steveman	Rockford, "
W. J. D. Upshaw	Electic, "	J. R. Steely.	Marble Valley, "
B. H. Vickers	" "	J. H. Taylor	Irma, "
A. G. Rains	Proctor, "	J. H. Thompson.	Good Hope, "
G. W. Fulmer	Mt. Olive, "	Israel Holmes,	Syllacauga, "
Cat Smith,	Goodwater, "		

LICENTIATES.

J. C. Fulmer	Mt. Olive, Ala.	J. D. Hughes	Rockford, Ala.
J. L. Jones	Rockford, "	B. W. Calloway	"

MINUTES.

The Forty-first Annual Session of the Central Baptist Association, was held with Antioch Church, Elmore County, Alabama, commencing Wednesday, September 30th, 1885.

The introductory sermon was preached at 11 o'clock A. M., by Eld. J. M. Johnson, Text :Isah. 52:13; Behold my servant shall deal prudently.

After the sermon a recess of one hour and fifteen minutes was taken for refreshments.

The body was then called to order by the Moderator, Eld. J. H. Colley. Prayer by Elder Cat Smith.

Letter from the churches was then received and read by Dr. T. M. Bailey and Eld. Geo. E. Brewer.

The names of the following Brethren were then enrolled as delegates from the churches, as follows:

Ordained Ministers SMALL CAPS; Licentiates, *Italics*.

FIRST DISTRICT.

Shiloh—J. F. Edwards, E. J. Bryant.

Bethesda—D. S. MARTIN, B. F. Harris and E. Cason.

Liberty—Represented by letter.

Alexander City—N. M. Reed, J. P. Harrison.

Mt. Zion—J. S. Jones, J. N. Fincher, J. R. Funderburk.

Mt. Pleasant—J. W. Jones, J. G. Stewart.

Goodwater—CAT SMITH, J. M. Luker.

SECOND DISTRICT.

New Hope—H. B. Young.

Good Hope—O. C. SWINDALL, J. F. Timmerman.

Refuge—J. J. Garrett, J. S. Garrett.

Harmony—J. H. COLLEY, D. F. Avant.

Antioch—J. H. Hickman V. H. Collier, P. G. Olive.
Lebanon—T. P. Moon, J. A. Stanley.
Eclectic—W. J. D. Upshaw, B. H. Vickers, S. D. Hickman.
Countyline—C. M. Moore.
Bethlehem—Green Bilingslee.
Union—James Wideman, S. F. Thomas, J. M. Duffee.
Sandtuck—A. P. Johnson, C. C. Edwards, N. Floyd.
Beulah—Wm. Bachelor, Geo. W. Macon.

THIRD DISTRICT.

Concord—F. R. Simms, R. S. Penton, W. A. Austin.
Providence—Not represented.
Olive Branch—J. D. Hand.
Way Side—W. P. Ward, Jas. Arant, R. M. Murchinson.
Shady Grove—T. A. Kelley, J. J. Grant.
Rockford—Jno. S. Bentley, J. W. Ledbetter, T. J. Pennington.
Salem—*J. L. Jones*, Wm. R. Miller.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

Poplar Springs—M. L. Alman, Jas. Morrison.
Mt. Olive—R. Corley, W. C. Brown.
Union Springs—O. P. Looney, J. A. Hardin, J. M. Edwards.
Holly Springs—Not represented.
Macedonia—W. B. J. Stone, L. R. Blocker, G. M. Lowery.
Hatchet Creek—D. L. Ingram.
Mt. Moriah—F. E. Gandy.
Mountain Springs—Not represented.
Friendship—Not represented.

An election of officers was then held, Dr. T. M. Bailey and Eld. Geo. E. Brewer, acting as tellers who reported that Eld. L. H. Hastie was elected Moderator, D. S. Martin re-elected Clerk, T. J. Pennington re-elected Treasurer.

Visiting Brethren invited to seats.

Dr. T. M. Bailey of the State Board was received as Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

The following committees were appointed:

On Religious Exercises—W. P. Ward, S. D. Hickman and the delegates and pastor of Antioch Church.

Finance and Auditing.—R. S. Penton, R. Corley, Jno. Jones.

Documents and Requests.—D. F. Avant, Wm. Miller, J. R. Funderburk.

Nominations—J. F. Edwards, O. P. Looney, B. F. Harris.

Correspondence—N. M. Reed, F. R. Simms, W. B. J. Stone.

On motion, S. F. Thomas and J. M. Duffee was granted leave of absence. Committee on Religious exercises, made the following report:

To preach to-night at the church, Wm. Upshaw, followed by W. T. Stewman. At the Grange, Cat Smith, as alternate, B. H. Vickers. To-morrow at 11 o'clock A. M., Eld. Geo. E Brewer. Prayer meeting eight and a half o'clock conducted by O. C. Swindall.

The body then adjourned until nine o'clock, Thursday morning.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY MORNING, October 1, 1885.

Met and resumed business. Called for Correspondence. Received from East Liberty Eld. Geo. E. Brewer.

Morning Star (col.) Eld. Green Jeter.

The rules of decorum were read.

Roll was called and names of absentees erased

A motion prevailed to appoint a committee of seven Brethren, the Moderator as Chairmam to visit the Church at Mountain Spring during the ensueing year, to report the result of their labors at the next session of this body.

Committee L. H. Hastie, G. M. Lowery, O. P. Looney, W. B. J. Stone, A. J. Smith, L. R. Blocker, M. E. Stone.

The Treasurer's report was read adopted and refered to the committee on finance, as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Report of T. J. Pennington, Treasurer of the Central Association, fo: the year 1885.

Dr.

To balance on hand from previous years	$154.25
To amount received as Minute funds	45.75
" " " " Foreign missions	37.55
" " State missions including $20.00 from sister Posey	25.00
" " Associational funds	79.65
" " Sabbath collection	25.55
" " For Brother Johnson	32.40
" " " " Olive	5.00
" " " Ministerial Education	.25
Total am't rec'd	405.40

Cr.

By amount paid Bro. Martin, Clerk	$45 75
" " " " Olive	5.00
" " " " Johnson	58.33
" " " " Hastie	185.00
Total am't disbursed	294.08
Balance in hands of Treasurer	$111.32

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. PENNINGTON, Treasurer.

Returned correspondence as follows:

East Liberty—Wm. Upshaw, D. F. Avant, D. S. Martin.

Cary—Cat Smith, J. M. Luker.

Coosa River—J. L. Jones, Wm. Miller, G. S. Ward.

Tallapoosa River—J. H. Colley, W. P. Ward, Wm. Upshaw, B. H. Vickers.

Montgomery—J. M. Johnson, G. S. Ward, T. J. Pennington, Wm. Edward, D. S. Martin.

Unity—W. J. D. Upshaw, Posey, Olive.

Morning Star—(col) W. P. Ward, G. M. Lowery, L. H. Hastie, J. F. Edwards, J. L. Jones, J. W. Ledbetter, J. P. Arant.

Baptist State Convention—Wm. J. D. Upshaw, J. L. Jones, W. P. Ward, J. M. Johnson, D. S. Martin, O. P. Looney, J. A. Hardin, J. J. Grant, T. A. Kelley, G. M. Lowery, J. P. Harrison, N. M. Reed.

Association adjourned until one and a half p. m., for preaching. Brother Brewer preached a most excellent sermon from the text: "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God," (and such we are).—1 John, 3 and 1. After which a collection was taken for Foreign Missions amounting to $26.40. A recess of one hour and fifteen minutes taken for refreshments.

Business was again resumed. The report on State Missions was read.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

Your committee find from the report of the State Mission Board for Alabama, that eighty-one missionaries and colporteurs have been engaged in this State for the past year, some of whom were engaged only for a short time. Some of the missionaries carried books, and some worked exclusively as colporteurs. That the labors of these brethren have extended into sixty of the sixty-six counties of this State, which shows a considerable increase in these itenerant labors, both in the number of brethren engaged in this delightful work, as well as in the territory occupied.

These brethren have traveled in the aggregate, over fifty-two thousand miles; been actually engaged over seven thousand days; addressed and preached to the people over four thousand times; baptised over nine hundred persons; supplied over one hundred destitute stations, besides various other labors in the way of religious visits, organizing Sunday School service, conducting prayer meetings, assisting in constituting churches, efforts to secure the building of church houses, etc., for all of which we should be devoutedly thankful to God--that the condition of so many persons have been bettered by his grace and through his servants, and these brethren should render thanks to Him for having employed them in his service,--that they have been enabled to depict the Love of God and the Joys of Heaven to sinners. But we fear that there is not sufficient thought bestowed upon this subject by many christian people who live in favored districts, should their lots for a time be cast as some of us have been, in a region destitute of the word of God, both written and preached, and destitute of good literature, and where the surroundings consist chiefly of vile associations and a delight in ignorance, then they would think of the missionary cause, and pray for it, and pray that preachers and colporteurs might become numerous, and be ready to aid by every possible means, in bringing about reform. And there are also waste places in Zion where, from deaths, removals, backslidings, etc., the cause of our Saviour has become almost lifeless, and these need to be stirred and cheered up by the coming of brethren laden with good things.

Now, we must also remember that every generation brings with it its

spiritual necessities, "conceived in sin and brought forth in iniquity--as prone to sin as the sparks are to fly upward," it needs teaching and training, it needs to read the word of God, it needs line upon line, and precept upon precept, exortation and warning. So there is no end to the labors of the succession of generations of Godly men and women, and hence, there is an increasing demand for our assistance.

And we must also remember, brethren and sisters of the Central Association, that the oracles of God are committed to the church. God does not propose to come in his own person and do what he requires of us to do, we must be active, and enquire, "*Lord what use have you for me*," and seek out our line of duty and pursue it.

Repentence, faith and thanks are all proper and acceptable, but fruits of righteousness must also be exhibited. We must not be mere hearers—but also doers of God's will. There is work to be done—why stand we here idle? It is suggested, that if we will raise $260.48 for State Missions for the ensuing year, the missionary work can go on to furthe rsuccess, and, brethren, we are workers together with Christ—2 Cor. 6:1. God works by his power, and we work by the means given us; the means are always suited to the work to be done, no impossibility is required of us. The means we are to employ are, our tongues, our acts and what we possess of earthly substance, all these should be held by us in the interest of God's service. Some object to the idea of the use of money in connection with God's service, we suggest to them the *truth*, that under God's arrangement money is the most potent means of transactions; money more than food, clothing or anything else has its uses in all the affairs of life, because it supplies all these; money is simply the indispensable medium of exchange for all necessaries, and no individual, however poor, can get along without it. God has so fixed it, so recognized it and practiced it. Think of it--without money we can have no implements of industry, no clothing, no medicine, no books, but little knowledge, no schools, no church-houses, no bibles, no song books, no elements for commemorating the death of our Saviour, no means of correspondence, no commerce nor nothing essential to the good of our being.

The old saying so often and conveniently quoted, that "the love of money is the root of evil," applies as well to its being withheld from a proper use, as to the illegitimate efforts to obtain it. No moneyed value is placed upon the souls of men, but money value is required to enable the preacher to preach to the people. So brethren and sisters let us all dedicate a part of what we have to the service of God, by employing it, (be the amount ever so small), in good works, and we will feel better.

JNO. S. BENTLEY.
JAS. L. JONES.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSIONS.

We, your Committee, beg leave to report: Never in the past history of this department of our great work, has the out-look been so promising. We

have had 185 missionaries employed during this year ; churches and stations, 426 ; weeks of labor, 4,061 ; sermons and addresses, 17,039 ; prayer meetings attended, 2,840 ; baptisms, 2,931 ; received by letter, 1,733 ; total additions, 4,664 ; Sunday Schools, 173 ; teachers and pupils, 6,194 ; miles traveled, 164,937 ; aided in church buildings, 14 ; churches constituted, 53.

In Arkansas, Louisiana, Florida, Texas, North Carolina, and among the Indians, the Home Board is doing an extensive work.

We have nothing new to say on the subject. I would suggest that we would do more and talk less. We deem it high time that we were performing the duty of the work. We are glad to state, however, that the spirit of missions is increasing among our people at large. We hope, ere long, that there will not be one in the great Baptist rank but will engage with heart and hand in this all important work. The Board expects of Alabama $4,000, but let us do our part, which is only $87 30.

Respectfully submitted,

W. J. D. UPSHAW, Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Dear Brethren: The whole Spirit of the New Testament seems to indicate that the churches of our Lord Jesus Christ certainly should have some higher and nobler work to perform, than merely to maintain their organizations or to hold the land already occupied. Christ commands that his Gospel shall be preached to all nations, and while it seems that every sincere lover of Christ would certainly want to do something, the practical question for us to consider is what part of this great Christian work are we to perform. There has been so much statistical and other detailed information published and circulated throughout the country in the minutes of the Southern Baptist Convention and Baptist State Convention and in the work of the State Mission Board, that your Committee does not deem it necessary to say more than that the work seems to be progressing favorably and satisfactorily, as far as the means at command will allow under the administration of the present board and the guideance of an allwise God. But, dear brethren, it is not information on this all important subject that we so much need, but a spirit of concertation to the work. The Board asks from Alabama $5,000.00 and our State Convention has formally endorsed that request; but when we see how far short our state come of raising that amount during the last Conventional year it should humiliate us and arouse within us a determination to do greater things for the master in this branch of his work. Brethren of the Central Association, it does seem that two and three fourth cent *per Capita* from the Baptists of Alabama for this grand work is too small a matter to discuss. We earnestly recommend therefore;

First, That we, as an Association, make a faithful effort to raise the small amount of $108.70 cents, as suggested by our State Mission Board as being our fair proportion of the $5,000.00 asked for from the State.

Second, That some one be appointed in each church whose duty it shall be to secure collecttons in their churches expressly for Foreign Missions.

Third, That all contributions to this object be sent through our State Mission Board. Respectfully Submitted,

D. S. MARTIN, Chairman.

Pending the adoption of the several reports on misssion Dr. T. M. Bailey made a thrilling speech, then suggested to the Brethren to specify the amount they would endeavor to raise in their churches for missions during the ensuing year, and the following amounts were specified as follows:

Goodwater	$50.00	Sand Tuck	15.00	Sunday Schools.	
Shiloah	15.00	Antioch	30.00	Goodwater S. S.	$5.00
Mt. Zion	15.00	County Line	5.00	Eclectic S. S.	5.00
New Hope	5.00	Eclectic	25.00	Alexander City S S	5.00
Alexander City	100.00	Concord	20.00	Sand Tuck S S.	4.00
Good Hope	5.00	Wayside	10.00	Rockford S. S	5.00
Harmony	10.00	Rockford	25.00	Individual Contributions.	
Bethlehem	5.00	Poplar Springs	10.00	James Walker.	$ 5.00
Lebanon	5.00	Mt. Olive	25.00	L. H. Hastie	11.00
Olive Branch	5.00	Macedonia.	20.00		
Shady Grove	5.00	Hatchet Creek	5.00		
Salem	10.00	Union	10.00		
Union Springs	20.00	Bulah	5.00		
Mount Moriah	10.00	Bethesda	15.00		

The report on Missions then adopted.

Committee on Religious exercises, reports to preach tomorrow at 11 o'clock, A. M., Dr. T. M. Bailey.

Body adjourned to 9 o'clock Friday morning.

FRIDAY MORNING, Oct. 2nd.

Met pursuant to adjournment.

Prayer by Eld. J. H. Colley.

Business resumed, by correcting the list of Ordained Ministers and Licentiates.

Report on Sabbath Schools read and adopted as follows:

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools are of the opinion that there is not enough interest taken in this department of Church work as its importance demands. When we think of the practice of the early Christians, of the admonitions of God to his people to teach His Word diligently to their children, of the example of the Saviour, who went into the Temple and taught

on the Sabbath day, we fail to see how any church can refuse to enter heartily into this Service. Your Committee recommend that the churches in your bounds, rouse up from their lethargy on the subject of Sabbath School work. Respectfully Submitted,

T. A. KELLY.

Report on Temperance read, and after an impressive speech by Bro. Wm. Upshaw, adopted as follows:

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your Committee on Temperance deem it necessary to make this report: That great good has been accomplished. Much remains to be done yet. The churches should take high ground and see that the Bible teaching on this subject be rigidly enforced. Let all Christians unite, and by earnest prayer, faithful labor and consistent example; the glorious day of deliverance will dawn upon us. We would most earnestly impress upon pastors, and, indeed all ministers in the bounds of this Association, the duty that devolves upon them, that they should cry aloud and spare not, and when they preach of righteousness and judgment to come, they should also reason of Temperance.

As a denomination, your Committee are decidedly of the opinion that we should not be satisfied short of entire and absolute prohibition, and that we should earnestly labor for the accomplishment of that great end. Resolved, that this Association will not fellowship any church that recognizes or permits the traffic, or aids in such traffic, of intoxicating liquors among its members.

B. H. VICKERS.

The Report on the state of Religion was read, after practical and appropriate remarks by Dr. T. M. Bailey, was adopted as follows:

REPORT ON RELIGION.

Dear Brethren; Your Committee appointed at our last Session, to report on the State of Religion, are delighted to say, that much of encouragement has taken place since we last met. The brethren have taken more than usual interest in repairing and making their houses of worship more comfortable, while the Sabbath Schools have not been overlooked. Within the last few months there has been great revivals of religion all along the line. The brethren have worked earnestly and the ministers bent their energies for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. Dear Brethren, let us thank God and take courage, for if we are but faithful to our trust a bright future awaits us. Respectfully Submitted,

L. H. HASTIE,
W. B J. STONE,
O. P. LOONEY,

Report on Religious Literature was read, after able speeches by Brewer and Bailey. Subscriptions was taken for the Alabama Baptist, amounting to twenty-eight annual subscribers. Report then adopted as follows:

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

Your Committee on Religious Literature beg leave to say that religious literature is greatly needed by the Baptists of our Association. It keeps us apprised of the movements along the whole line of Christian advancement, and the opportunities which God in his providence opens up to us to do something to carry out the command of Jesus to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Its tendency is to broaden our views, enlarge our charities and to subdue our passions. It cheers us when religion is at a low ebb. In view of these facts, every family should be supplied with some good religious paper. The Alabama Baptist is a splendid paper for the Baptists of Alabama, and ought to be taken by our people. There are various papers published in our States, some of peculiar excellence in different directions. Among these might be mentioned the Richmond Herald, Richmond, Va.; The Christian Index, Atlanta, Ga.; and as a general Missionary paper, the Home and Foreign Journal, Richmond, Va ; Kind Words, Macon, Ga., is a most excellent Sabbath School paper, also the publications of the A. B. P. S.

Respectfully Submitted,

T. J. PENNINGTON, Chairman.

At 11 o'clock A. M., Dr. T. M. Bailey, filled the stand and preached one of his soul stirring sermons. Acts x, middle clause of v. 38.

Two o'clock P. M., met and resumed business. Report on Documents and Requests adopted as follows.

We your committee on Documents and Requests beg leave to report that we find nothing demanding our attention.

Respectfully submitted,

D. F. AVANT, Chairman.

Bro. L. H. Hastie, missionary and colporteur for the Association, made following report, which on motion was referred to a committee, consisting of J. S. Bentley, James Walker, Cat Smith, together with Dr. T. M. Bailey, T. J. Pennington. Said Committee retired and made out the following report, which was unanimously adopted as follows:

We, your Committee, find Bro. Hastie has performed eight months service, and is therefore entitled to $400. We recommend that the Treasurer be instructed to settle with him out of the funds on hand for State Missions.

Bro. J. M. Johnson, taken a collection to complete the J. W. Suttle colportage fund amounting to $17. A motion then prevailed, that the profits on books in hand of Bro. Hastie be added to said fund, making in all $100.

The Committee on nominations submited the following report, which was adopted.

To preach the Introductory Sermon, W. T. Stewman, alternate G. M. Lowery. Write Circular Letters, Wm. J. D. Upshaw. Central Committee. J. S. Bentley, H. Norrel, T. J. Pennington,

Respectfully submitted, J. F. EDWARDS, Chairman.

The Committee on Correspondence reports as follows:

Your Committee on Correspondence would submit the following: It is with pleasure that we recognize among us, our Brethren from sister Associations, and we think that this Fraternal Relationship, should be cultivated by returning their visits, and by such other means as may be deemed expedient.

Respectfully submitted,

N. M. REED, Chairman.

A motion then prevailed that this Association heartily cooperate with the Mission Board of the State Convention in its work.

Resolved, That the Clerk be paid $15 out of the minute fund for his service, and balance be used in printing and distributing Minutes.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Body be and are hereby tendered Antioch Church. The brethren and sisters of other denominations, and also the community at large for their generous hospitality during the Session of this body.

Report of Committee on Finance and Auditing read and adopted as follows:

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

We, your Committee on Finance, beg leave to make the following Report: We have examined the Report of the Treasurer and compared Vouchers of the same and find said Report correct.

We have received Contributions for this Session as follows:

Minute Funds	$ 41 70
Foreign Missions	32 75
State Missions	196 05
Mexican Missions	1 50
Ministerial Education	5 50
Home Missions	8 50
Indigent Ministerial Fund	10 00
Finance Committee	3 35
Total Amount Received	$ 299 35

Respectfully Submitted,

R. S. PENTON, Chairman

P. S.—We find that Bro. T. M. Bailey has received as follows:

From Good Water Church	$ 43 00
From Union Church	3 75

P. S.—We also Report $17.92 received from L. H. Hastie, as profits on Books and $17.08 as the collection of Bro. J. M. Johnson for Colportage funds.

Time and place of holding District Meetings.

1st. District, Mt. Zion, Friday before 1st. Sabbath in August, 1886.

2nd. District, Eclectic, Friday before 4th. Sabbath in July, 1886.

3rd District, Concord, Friday before 4th. Sabbath in August, 1886.

4th. District, Union Springs, Friday, 1st. Sabbath in August, 1886.

The following Committees were appointed to report at the next Session.

State Missions—Wm. Upshaw, B. H. Vickers, S. F. Thomas.

Home Missions.—J. S. Bentley, T. A. Kelley, and W. T. Stewman.

Foreign Missions—J. M. Johnson, O. C. Swindall, G. S. Ward.

Sabbath Schools—L. H. Hastie, G. M. Lowery, J. L. Jones.

Temperance—Cat Smith, J. C. Maxwell, W. C. Brown.

State of Religion—J. H. Colley, James Walker, and C. M. Moore.

Religious Literature.—W. P. Ward, S. D. Hickman, D. S. Martin.

The Clerk was instructed to correct the minutes, and also to appoint Standing Committees.

The Body adjourned to meet with Wayside Church, on Wednesday before the 1st. Sabbath in Oct. 1886.

DECEASED CHURCH MEMBERS.

Bethsada—Dervie Blake.

Shiloh—Mary Hagans.

Harmony—Mandy Adams.

Refuge—Nancy Tanton.

Macedonia—Elisabeth Hastie.

Mt. Olive—Elizabeth Presley.

Olive Branch—Nancy Hay, and Betty Devaughn.

Hatchet Creek—Eliza Jones and Elizabeth Eales.

Mt. Zion—Jennie Stow and Ola Walker.

Concord—Ailcy Snider, and Victory Robbins.

Salem—Jane Castlebury.

Goodhope—Mary C. Parks.

Poplar Springs—Jane Caffey, Alex. Logan and Eliza Atchley.

FORM OF CHURCH LETTERS—RECOMMENDED FOR USE BY THE CHURCHES.

The Baptist Church of Christ at ——, to the Central Baptist Association :

DEAR BRETHREN: We have appointed as delegates to your body.—— ————, and as alternates—— —— ——

STATISTICS.

Baptized, ——; Received by letter, ——; by voucher, ——; Restored.——; Dismissed by letter, ——; Died, ——; Excluded, ——; No. of members,——; Increase, ——; Decrea e, ——.

Number of officers and teachers, ——; number of Scholars enrolled ——; average attendance of all, ——; number of Teachers baptized during the year, ——; number of Scholars baptized during year, ——; number of months open, ——; number of volumes in Library, ——; number of Sunday School papers taken, ——; Contributions for School expenses, ——; Contributions for benevolent objects. ——.

Have you a prayer meeting, and how often does it meet.

We send contributions as follows: For Ministers, $—; Home Missions cash, $——; Foreign Missions, cash $——; Ministerial Education, cash, $—— Aggregate, $——; Total; $——.

Of which $—— is to redeem previous pledges for ——. Pastor, ———. Clerk,———. Clerk's post office,——. County, ——.

Sabbath meeting, ——

[Here make brief mention of revival. Ordination, Licenture, Death of Members, or other matter of importance.]

By order of conference, ——.

———— ————, Moderator.

—— ——, Clerk.

Date.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. The Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer shall be chosen by a majority of the members of the body, and shall hold their offices until another election.

2. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside in their deliberations of the association, and keep order, by enforcing the rules of this Docorum, and he shall not be allowed to vote, except in cases of a tie, and then shall give the casting vote.

3. It shall be the duty of the Association, first, to provide for the general union of the churches, and to devise ways and means for the spread of

the Gospel, and the promotion of our Redeemer's kingdom upon earth; second, to maintain correspondence with sister associations, and thus preserve a chain of communication among the churches; third, to give advice to the churches in cases of difficulty; fourth, to invite visiting ministers of our faith and order to seats with us, to aid in our deliberations.

4. At each annual session there shall be appointed, by the Association, an executive committee, consisting of ——, to whom shall be referred all matters touching the spread of the Gospel in our bounds, and report thereon at the next session of the Association.

5. There shall be appointed, as in the last preceding article, a committee of finance, to whom all funds sent up by the churches to the Association shall be paid; whose duty it shall be to report thereon during the session.

6. No motion shall be entertained by the Association until it shall be seconded; it shall then be taken up, opened for debate, and finally decided, unless withdrawn by the mover.

7 Every query sent up to this Association by any in the Union shall be read and put to vote by the Moderator, whether it shall be debated; and if there be a majority in favor, it shall be taken up and investigated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn, Provided always, that those be first considered which may affect the union of the churches.

8. Every member who speaks shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator; he shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject.

9. No member shall speak more than three times upon the same subject unless by leave of the Association.

10. There shall be no talking, whispering, or moving about during the time of any public discussion, nor any reflection cast upon the speaker.

11. Any delegate wishing to leave the Association before its adjournment, shall be required to make the cause known, and obtain leave of absence by vote of the body; and if any delegate shall absent himself without leave, he shall be considered guilty of disorder, and shall be erased from the list of delegates.

12. A member violating any of these rules shall be reproved by the Moderator.

13. This Decorum shall be read at each annual session of the Association, immediately after its organization.

14. This Decorum may, at any regular session, be altered or amended a majority of the body concurring therein.

CONSTITUTION.

Article 1. The Association shall be composed of members regularly chosen by the churches in our Union; but in making appointments or assigning duties, it shall be constitutional for the Association to appoint to any such duties any Ordained Minister, though such Minister be not a delegate to this body.

Art. 2. The member so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches, certifying their appointment, together with the state of their churches since their last representation. But by a two-third vote of the Body a member of any Church, without being Regularly chosen, may, upon good Reasons, be admitted to represent such Church when no one Regularly Chosen be present.

Art. 3. The members so chosen and convened shall be called the "Central Association."

Art. 4. This Association shall sit as an advisory council, and shall

have no power to lord it over God's heritage, nor infringe on the internal rights of the churches; but may withdraw from any church not orthodox in principle according to the Scriptures, and who shall fail to represent at an Association, and shall refuse to account for such failure at the next regular session.

ART. 5. Any church desiring admission into this Union shall petition by letter and messengers, and if found othodox, shall be received by the Association by the Moderator giving the messenger the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 6. Any church having a public gift, before proceeding to license the same, should call the gifts of two or more sister churches, or experienced members, to unite with the church in conference to examine into the nature of the gift, and upon due approval, license to be granted, and reported to the next Association.

ART. 7. Every church in our Union, whose membership shall be one hundred or under, shall be entitled to three delegates, and for every thirty-three over one hundred, they shall be entitled to one additional delegate.

ART. 8. No query shall be taken into consideration in this Association, except in cases of serious difficulty which cannot be settled by the church, nor messengers from other churches.

ART. 9. This Association may correspond with any Baptist benevolent institution it shall deem expedient.

ART, 10. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches; and all moneys thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches, by their messengers, and paid over to the Committee on Finance (the committee shall be annually appointed), whose duty it shall be to receive in charge the Association fund, and dispose of the same agreeably to order, and make at every session a fair and circumstantial report of their proceedings.

ART. 11. The officers of this Association are to be a Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer, to be elected from her own body.

ART. 12. Difference of opinion as to benevolent institutions of the day shall never be made a question of fellowship in this Association.

ART. 13. Amendments or alterations to this Constitution may be made at any regular session—two-thirds of the members present concurring therein.

ARTICLES OF FAITH, PROOF TEXTS.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in one true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—three in one. 1st. John v. 7. Matt. III, 15-17. John xiv, 16. Matt. XXVIII, 19.

ART. II. We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. 2nd, Timothy III, 16-17. 2nd Peter I, 19-20-21.

ART. III. We believe in the doctrine of original sin. That Adam disobeyed God, and that all mankind have inherited a sinful nature from Adam. Gen. III. 1-7. Psalms LI, 5. Rom. v, 12. Eph. II, I.

ART. IV. We believe in man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by himself alone. Zach. IV, 6. John VI, 44. 1st. Cor. XI, 14. Rom. VIII, 7-8.

ART. V. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace, according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, and belief of the truth. Rom. XI, 4-7. 2nd Thess. II, 13. 1st Peter I, 2.

ART. VI. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only, by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. Acts XIII, 39. Rom. IV, 11-

12-23-24-25. Gala. II, 16.

ART. VII. We believe in the preservation of saints. Psalms XXXVII. 23-24-28. Micah. VII, 8. John V, 24 and X, 28. Rom. VIII, 35-39. 1st. Peter , I 3-5.

ART. VIII. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordin nces of Jesus Christ, of perpetual obligation, and that none but true believers are fit subjects of the ordinances. Jonn I, 33. Matt. III 13-17. Matt. XXVIII, 19-20. Acts I, 22, and II, 41, Matt. XXVI, 6-30. 1st Cor XI, 23-26.

ART. IX. We believe in one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, and immersion only is baptism. Eph. IV, 5. Rom. VI, 4-6. Col. II, 12. Acts VIII, 38:39. Mark I, 9.

ART. X. We believe that no one is qualified to preach, administer the ordinances of the Gospel, except he be called of God, as was Aaron, is set apart by, and is in good standing with the church of which he is a member, and come under the hands of the Presbytery. Mark III, 14 Acts XIV, 23. 1st Tim II, 7, and V, 22. Heb. V, 4 John IV, 2. Acts VIII, 28.

ART. XI. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the general judgment. John V, 28-29. Rev. XX, 12-13. Acts XXIV, 15.

ART. XII. We believe in the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal. Matt. XXV, 46. Rev. VII, 15-16. Col. 3 4. 1st Thess. V, 17. 2nd Thess. I. 7-9. Rev. XX, 10-14-15. Matt. XXV, 41-43.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	CLERKS.	POST OFFICE.	Conference Saturday before S'bth.	INCREASE.				DECREASE.			CONTRIBUTIONS.				
					Baptised	Letters.	Vouchers.	Restored.	Dismissed by Letter.	Excluded	Dead.	Total.	Minutes.	State Missions.	Home Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Ministerial Education.
Bethesda	D. S. Martin	W. H. Bird	Equality	1st.	1	2			2	2	1	59	$ 1 50	$2 50		$	
Shiloh	D. S. Martin	E. J. Bryant	Crewsville	4th	2	1			2	1	1	53	1 50	5 90			
Lebanon	A. G. Rains	A. T. Stanley	Wetumpka	2nd								16	75				
Harmony	D. S. Martin	T. J. Colley	Equality	3rd	5	6		1	7		1	70	2 00	5 60			
Olive Branch		J. D. Hand	Pentonville		2	5					2	44	1 00				
Beulah	J. M. Johnson	Wm. Bachelor	Wetumpka	1st	3	4			1	1		23	1 00	2 25			
Bethlehem	J. H. Colley	G. Bilingslee	Tallassee	4th	2	10			3			70	1 50	5 35			
Refuge	J. H. Taylor	T. J. McDonald	Chaniehatchie	2nd		4				1	1	61	1 00	4 00			
Eclectic	Wm. J. Upshaw	J. B. Crawley	Eclectic	4th	4	7			2	1		93	1 50	7 75			
Union Springs	G. M. Lowry	J. W. Cooper	Marble Valley	1st	14	5			2	1		77	1 50	10 00			50
Hatchett Creek		R. C. Hardy	Dollar						11		2	35	1 00	2 30			
New Hope	J. H. Colley	H. B. Young	Bulgers' Mills	2nd	2	1		2	3	5		42	1 50	3 90			
Mt. Zion	J. H. Colley	J. S. Jones	Bulgers' Mills	1st	14	6	1		4	2	1	40	1 50	7 50			
Mt, Moriah	G. M. Lowrey	G. A. Harmon	Terapin Hill	3rd					3	2		30	1 00	2 75			
Concord	T. A. Kelley	R. S. Penton	Pentonville	4th		1			1	1	2	54	1 25	15 00			
Liberty		W. M. Russell	Bulgers' Mills	3rd				1	4		2	43	1 00	9 00			
Wayside	A. G. Rains	Miles N. Ward	Sykes' Mills	3rd		4		1	3	5		47	1 55	3 00		1 50	
Sandtuck	B. H. Vickers	W. J. Johnson	Sandtuck	3rd					6	14		55	1 00				
Good Water	Cat Smith	T. P. Cranford	Good Water	4th	2	1			8	3		100	1 50	43 00			
Shady Grove	W. T. Stewman	F. M. Allen	Pentonville	2nd					1	1		38	1 00	5 00			
Good Hope	J. M Johnson	J. F. Timmerman	Good Hope	2nd	9	1			1		1	45	1 00	1 50			
Macedonia	L. H. Hastie	C. G. Conaway	Stewartville	2nd	2		3	2	1	2	1	88	1 00	5 00			
Mt. Pleasant	J. R. Conger	J. S. Stewart	Goodwater		1	8			3		2	22	50	4 25			
Salem	T. A. Kelley	G. E.Litaker	Rockford	1st		2			4	3	1	62	1 50	6 50			
Antioch	T. A. Kelley	E. J. Wommack	Weoka	1st		2			2	3	1	70	1 50	3 45			
Poplar Spring	J. W. Fulmer	J. M. Conaway	Hanover	4th				3	7	2	3	62	1 00	2 50			
Rockford	W. Wilks	T. J. Pennington	Rockford	3rd	10	6				3		86	1 50	23 85			
County Line	J. M. Johnson	Ben Howle	Irma	3rd		2		1	1	2		57	1 25	5 00			
Union	W. J. D. Upshaw	S. F. Thomas	Central Institute	2nd	2				8	7		89	1 50	7 50		2 85	
Mt. Olive	W. Wilks	W. C. Brown	Mt. Olive	1st	8	2	1		3		1	107	2 00	14 20		1 25	
Alexander City	R. A. J. Cumbie	T. S. Christian	Alexander City		40	11	3		6	3		220	3 30	35 00	5 00	5 00	
Providence												64					
Holly Springs												78					
Friendship												32					

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST

IS THE ORGAN OF THE

BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.

THERE is no more important interest fostered by the denomination than this paper. It ought to be read in every Baptist family in Alabama. This is not asking too much.

Having removed to Montgomery, the capital of the State, the publishers hope to deserve more than ever the support of the denomination.

SUBSCRIPTION—$2.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

☞ We will pay a commission to agents soliciting subscriptions in any Church or Association.

John G. Harris
—AND—
Wm. A. Davis,
} Editors and Proprietors.

SAMUEL HENDERSON, D. D., Associate Editor.

We are prepared to do all kinds of

Job Printing, Ruling and Binding,

AND INVITE YOUR WORK IN THE LINE OF

MINUTES, LETTER HEADS, BLANK BOOKS, &c.

ADDRESS ALL ORDERS TO

THE ALABAMA BAPTIST,
Montgomery, Ala.